Jones, Terence Paton

A West Australian railway employee
killed while on military service for their country



Memorial at Railway Workshops Midland (D.Graham/panoramio)

Rail employment information

Employer:	Western Australian Government Railways & Tramways
Branch:	Locomotive
Designation:	Cleaner

Rail employment notes: Born 14/7/1893. Joined WAGR 4/2/1913 aged 19 as Cleaner, Northam. Transferred to Busselton 25/2/1915.

("Cleaner" in this case was a position in the Locomotive branch, cleaning locomotives and otherwise employed at a locomotive depot whilst training to be a Fireman, the next step up the ladder.)

Granted leave to join AIF 13/7/1915 (Service No.2817). Killed in action 12/8/1916.

Military service information:

Conflict:	First World War 1914-1918
Service:	Australian Imperial Force
Military unit:	51st Australian Infantry Battalion
Service number:	2817
Date of death:	12 August 1916
Place of death:	France
Age:	23
Rank at time of death:	Private

Burial/commemoration: Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, Picardie, France

Terence Paton Jones enlisted in the AIF on 5 June 1915 at Blackboy Hill Camp. On enlistment he nominated his mother Mrs Gertrude Jones as his Next Of Kin. He had no previous military experience. Upon completion of basic training he was allocated to 9th Reinforcements to 11 Battalion with the regimental number 2817. Pte Jones departed Australia through the Port of Fremantle on 15 October 1915 aboard A20 HMAT *Hororata*. After arrival in Egypt he was taken-on strength of 11 Bn on 7 January 1916 and continued training. He was hospitalized in Egypt for a short period suffering from diarrhoea.

Following the reorganization of the AIF Divisions in Egypt Private Jones was transferred to the newly raised 51 Battalion on 29 February 1916. Training in that unit continued until 5 June 1916 when the Battalion sailed from Alexandria on 5 June 1916 aboard HMT *Ivernia* and disembarked at Marseilles on 12 June 1916 to join the British Expeditionary Force. The Battalion went into action at the Battle for Moquet farm where Private Jones was Killed In Action on 12 August 1916. His body was never recovered, he has no known grave, and is remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

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The Australian War memorial at Villers-Bretonneux, France.

Australian soldiers killed in France, whose bodies could be found for relocation, are buried and marked by the rows of gravestones seen to left and right.

The wing walls to both sides of the central watch tower record, carved in stone, the names of Australian soldiers killed in France but with no known grave – tragically, more than 11 000 men. The largest number recorded from one unit is from 28th Battalion – some 365 West Australians.



Additional/personal information:

Terence Jones was born on 14/7/1893, according to WAGR records, and his birth was registered in the Nowra district of NSW, a son of Robert and Gertrude (nee Kelly) Jones (NSW BDM 27221/1893). He appears to have been an only child.

There was considerable immigration to Western Australia during the 1890s goldrush years and his family might have moved here then. However, at some time the father abandons his wife and son – it is not known whether he came to WA with them.

> JONES.—In loving memory of our darling Terry, who was killed in action on August 12, 1916, in France. He sleeps among the noble slain. —Inserted by his sorrowing mother, Gertrude Jones, and cousins, Eileen and Iris Casey, Maylands. *The West Australian*, 15/9/1916p1

For his service he was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Mrs Jones received the memorial scroll; Kings message, the 1914-15 Star and the Victory Medal after it was determined that his father had abandoned the family 15 years earlier and his whereabouts were unknown. A policy with the AMP Society was paid out to his mother. Mrs Jones was awarded a military pension but the details are not on record. On 06 Nov 1921 Mrs Jones died, aged 50, and was buried at Karrakatta cemetery. Despite newspaper advertisements no other relative could be found. The British War Medal remains unclaimed following her death.

Terence Jones' name is noted on a war memorial in Maylands, WA, the suburb where his mother was living.

Further information and/or photos may be added as available. Information may also be found on the Australian War Memorial website: *https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people*

Abbreviations: WAGR= Western Australian Government Railways (& Tramways at some periods); MRWA= Midland Railway of Western Australia; BDM=Western Australian Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages website; AWM=Australian War Memorial (Canberra and website); CWGC= Commonwealth War Graves Commission (including website). DVA=Department of Veterans' Affairs (including website)

Acknowledgements: Rail employment notes from WAGR Honour Roll and WAGR records held by State Records Office, Perth, transcribed by J.Austin 2019. Military information researched by Dr G.M.Galvin. Family information and collation by G.Higham.

----------Lest we forget----------